



A Triage Tool for Homeless Youth

Proposed Items and Method

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What is a Triage Tool? And Why?



- A quick assessment that providers can deliver to identify those youth at greatest need for housing
- Agencies may “cream” easiest to work with youth into housing, leaving most vulnerable and needy behind.





Tools for Adult Homeless

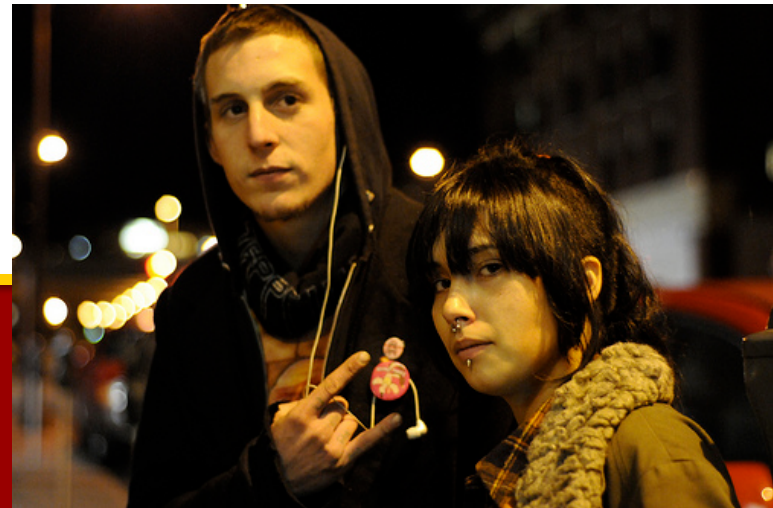
- Vulnerability Index
 - Common Ground's tool: identifies and prioritizes housing according to the fragility of their health
- Crisis Indicator – triage tool based on identifying those 10th percentile of highest cost homeless adults
- First based on risk of death, second based on who costs the most, primarily health care costs



The problem with Million Dollar Murray

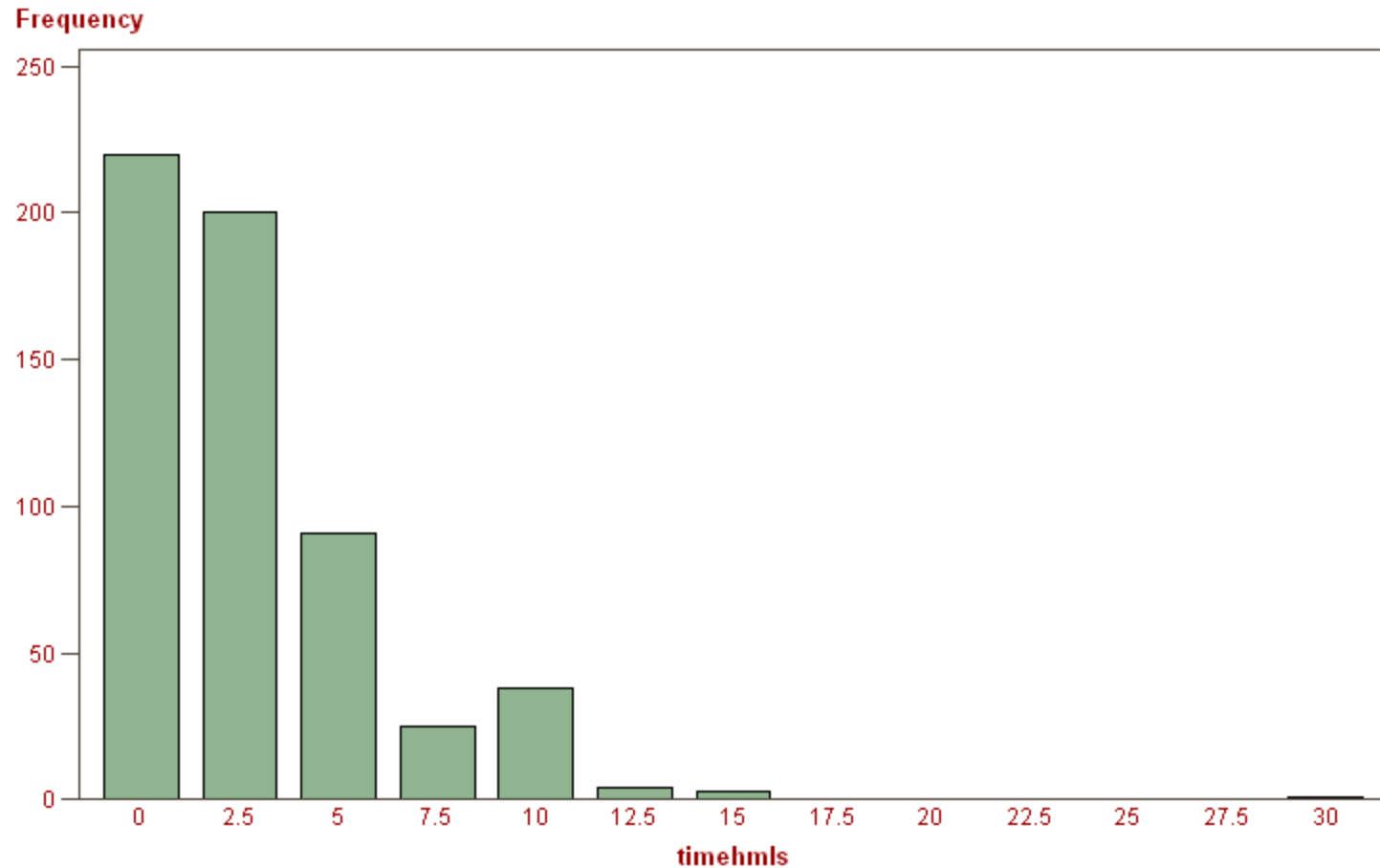


- Million Dollar Murray – Malcolm Gladwell’s New Yorker piece mobilized political will
- Vulnerability Index and the Adult Triage tool both based on risk of death and costs (primarily health care)
- So what do we use as the anchor?
 - CAB and I both agreed “long-term homelessness”





How long is “long-term”?





The approach

1. Settle on 5+ years as working definition of “long-term” homelessness.
2. Run controlling for age, the odds of 5+ years homeless with every possible variable suggested by the literature – 40+ items
3. Select the sub-set of variables with significant associations.
4. Enter these variables into a multivariate model & reduce model to only significant associations.





Reasons for Leaving Home

<u>Odds</u> <u>95% Confidence</u>			<u>Reasons for Leaving Home</u>
2.02	1.30	3.15 *	[1] I was kicked/thrown out of my family home, group home, or foster home
1.78	1.15	2.77 *	[2] I left my family home, group home, or foster home
1.54	0.95	2.52	[3] I was evicted
1.50	0.95	2.37	[4] I had a conflict with parents/guardians/caregivers
2.85	1.64	4.94 *	[5] I experienced physical abuse
2.46	1.16	5.22 *	[6] I experienced sexual abuse
3.02	1.77	5.16 *	[7] There was violence at home between family members
2.15	1.27	3.65 *	[8] My personal alcohol and drug use
2.21	1.23	3.98 *	[9] My personal mental health problems
1.89	0.94	3.79	[10] My sexuality/sexual identity
1.44	0.92	2.26	[11] My desire for adventure
1.84	0.99	3.40	[12] There was a traumatic event involving family (death, accident, rape, overdose)
2.04	0.99	4.19	[13] There was a traumatic event involving a friend(s)
1.35	0.86	2.13	[14] My desire for independence
2.04	1.08	3.85	[15] My parents/guardians had financial problems at home
2.68	1.41	5.10 *	[16] I had problems at school
1.14	0.51	2.57	[17] I aged out of foster care
1.43	0.82	2.51	[18] I just got out of jail
3.20	1.59	6.42 *	[19] I had differences in religious beliefs with parents/guardians/caregivers

Early Risk Taking



<u>Odds</u>	<u>95% Confidence</u>	<u>Early Risk Behaviors</u>
1.84	1.10 3.07 *	Sexual debut 12 or younger
2.06	1.33 3.20 *	First alcohol consumption 12 or younger
3.43	2.18 5.39 *	First marijuana use 12 or younger
2.23	1.43 3.49 *	Incarcerated before age 18

Traumatic Experiences



Odds 95% Confidence Traumatic Experiences

1.33	0.86	2.08	1) Being hit, punched, or kicked very hard at home. (Do not include ordinary fights between brothers and sisters.)
1.25	0.79	1.97	2) Seeing a family member being hit, punched or kicked very hard at home. (Do not include ordinary
1.53	0.97	2.40	3) Being beaten up, shot at or threatened to be hurt badly in your town.
1.32	0.84	2.08	4) Seeing someone in your town being beaten up, shot at or killed.
2.08	1.33	3.26 *	5) Seeing a dead body in your town. (Do not include funerals.)
1.94	1.21	3.11 *	6) Having an adult or someone much older touch your private sexual body parts when you did not want them to.
1.01	0.65	1.58	7) Hearing about the violent death or serious injury of a loved one.
1.42	0.85	2.37	8) Physically forced to have sex when you did not want to.
1.48	0.93	2.35	PTSD symptomology

Other Important Issues



<u>Odds</u>	<u>95% Confidence</u>		<u>Other Important Issues</u>
1.06	0.55	2.03	Currently employed
1.27	0.81	2.00	Foster care experiences
1.77	1.13	2.78 *	High school drop out
3.17	0.93	10.75	HIV positive
1.08	0.51	2.28	STI positive
1.11	0.72	1.73	sleeping on streets
2.18	1.38	3.45 *	Has children
2.23	1.43	3.48 *	Pregnant you or someone else
1.29	0.80	2.08	Non-heterosexually identifying



The Final Model

Multivariate logistic regression assessing long-term homelessness among homeless TAY, Los Angeles 2011-12.

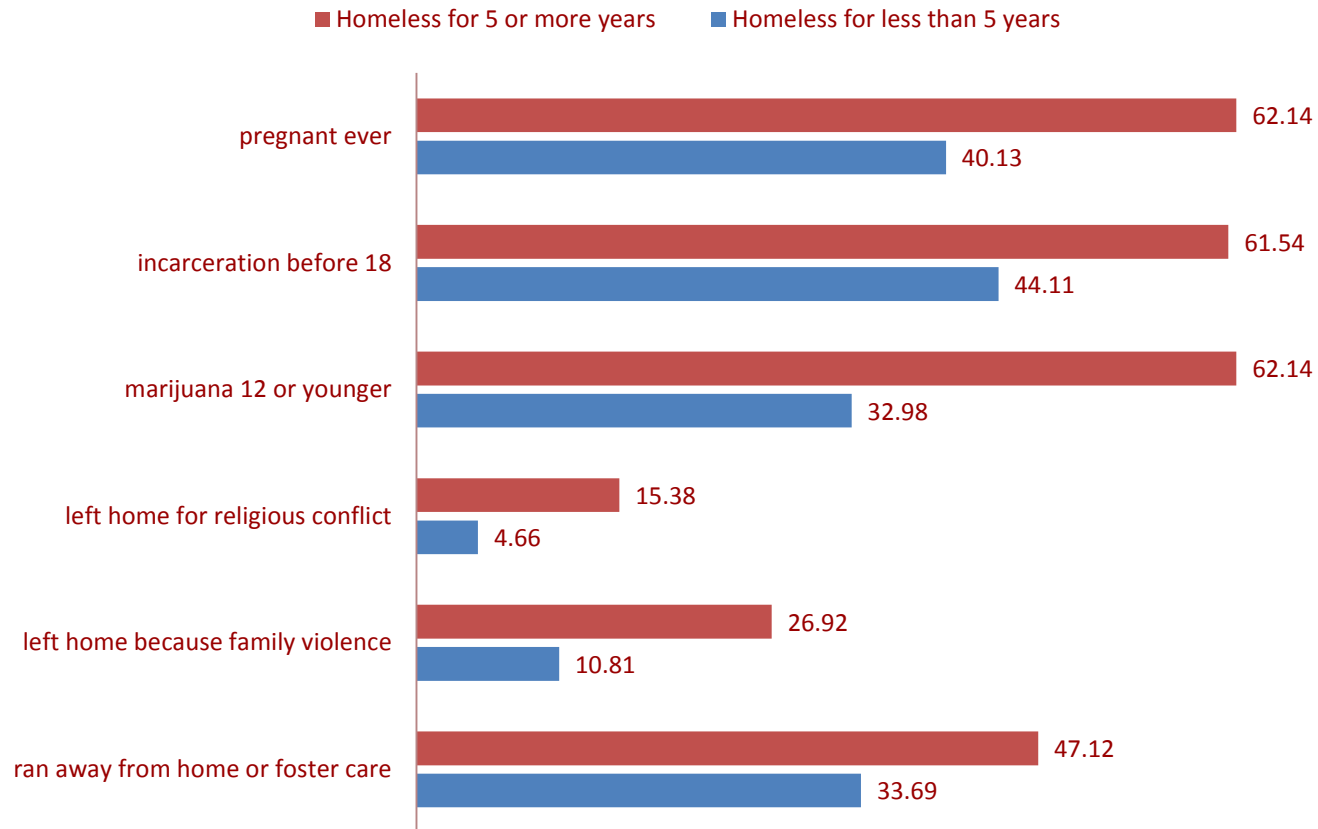
<u>Reasons for leaving home:</u>	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>95% Confidence</u>	
I left my family home, group home, or foster home	1.65 *	1.00	2.72
There was violence at home between family members	2.23 *	1.21	4.12
I had differences in religious beliefs with parents/guardians/caregivers	2.62 *	1.13	6.06
<u>Early Risk Taking:</u>			
First marijuana use 12 or younger	3.05 ***	1.84	5.06
Incarcerated before age 18	1.86 *	1.11	3.12
<u>Other issues:</u>			
Pregnant you or someone else	1.94 *	1.16	3.24
<u>Demographic Variables</u>			
Age (in years)	1.27 ***	1.13	1.43
Gender (males vs. females)	1.80	0.95	3.42
Sexual Orientation (LGB vs. heterosexual)	1.82	1.00	3.34
Foster Care History (vs. no foster care)	1.04	0.62	1.73
Race (white vs. non-white)	0.98	0.59	1.63
Pseudo R-square	0.16	-	-

* = $p < .05$, *** = $p < .001$



How common are these issues?

Percentage of Homeless TAY



How common are these issues?



Total Endorsed	
0	16.87%
1	28.33%
2	26.32%
3	18.27%
4	7.89%
5	2.01%
6	0.31%

Are multiple endorsements associated with additional risk?



Multivariate logistic regression assessing long-term homelessness among homeless TAY, Los Angeles 2011-12.

	<u>Odds Ratio</u>	<u>95% Confidence</u>	
Cumulative number of risk factors	2.11 *	1.72	2.58
<u>Demographic Variables</u>			
Age (in years)	1.29 ***	1.15	1.45
Gender (males vs. females)	1.70	0.92	3.13
Sexual Orientation (LGB vs. heterosexual)	1.78	0.99	3.18
Foster Care History (vs. no foster care)	0.99	0.60	1.63
Race (white vs. non-white)	0.98	0.59	1.61
Pseudo R-square	0.15	-	-

* = $p < .05$, *** = $p < .001$

Some insights about this model



- The “effect size” is large. These odds ratios are almost all 2+
 - Any one of these things, controlling for all the others is associated with being nearly twice as likely to be homeless for 5 or more years.
- The other factors are “absorbed” by these 6 variables
- This is a short list of critical issues, most of which happen prior to ever becoming homeless



If we just use these items...



Have you ever become homeless because:

There was violence at home between family members

I had differences in religious beliefs with parents/guardians/caregivers

I left my family home, group home, or foster home

How old were you when you tried marijuana for the first time?

Before your 18th birthday, did you spend any time in jail or detention?

Have you ever been pregnant or got someone else pregnant?

Some Next Questions for the Tool?



- Should it be just the six questions?
- Should we include other questions from the list, so as to make the list not too “leading”?
- How do we get this into the systems as they exist to identify vulnerable youth?
- How do we use this with the existing housing already provided?





Learning Pilot Locations?

SITE	LEARNING PILOT	STATUS
Los Angeles	CSH Stable Homes, Brighter Futures TAY PSH tenant outcomes evaluation.	Confirmed. Data collection date TBD.
Los Angeles	Data collection during lease-up of Mid Celis Apartments.	Confirmed. Data collection began 4/11/13.
Los Angeles	TAY Project 40	Being discussed.
Chicago	Prioritize TAY for PSH to integrate within central referral system.	Confirmed. Data collection date TBD.
San Francisco	Prioritize TAY during lease-up of PSH apartments.	Being discussed.
Seattle	Northwest Youth Services	Being discussed.



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